



Improving Motorcycle Road Safety

A summary of thoughts and ideas from QMC members regarding legislation and road rules that can potentially improve road safety for motorcyclists, and ultimately all road users is as follows:

Education

Implement the Education Blueprint as soon and as quickly as possible. Changing the culture of road users is critical but recognise that it is a generational process.

Complimentary to “Making Roads More Motorcycle Friendly” infrastructure goals it is important to educate both drivers and riders on sharing the road safely. This needs to start at the beginning of primary school and continue through to just prior to the age of getting a learners permit.

Investigate and implement ways to subsidise motorcycle training to encourage riders to undertake skills development.

Implement a fairly simple certification program for people who wish to supervisor learner riders.

Extend the Q-Ride program to ensure that theory-based information is complimented with practical on-road practice.

Licensing

Undertake a review and update of the Graduated License System. In particular take into consideration the following suggestions for change.

1. Remove the following requirement for a motorcycle learners permit.
 - *hold a provisional or open car licence and have held the licence for at least 1 year. This makes sure you have on-road driving experience before you learn to ride.*
2. Remove the 90-day requirement on the motorcycle learners permit and replace with 100 hours log book as per car drivers.
 - *You can enrol in the Q-Ride restricted (RE) course after you have held your RE learner licence for at least 90 days (at least 1 year if you got an exemption from the pre-learner course).*
3. Remove the mandatory requirement for a motorcycle learner to have a supervisor.
4. Reduce the age restriction on getting a motorcycle learners permit to 16 years of age for a LAMS motorcycle or 15½ years of age for a moped or motor scooter up to 50cc.

Mandatory 5-year testing for license renewal with an online review and test of road rules and hazard perception tests. In particular covering new and/or changed road rules and problematic road rules, e.g. merging and roundabouts. Ensure the hazard perception tests include scenarios for recognising vulnerable user situations. Clearly explain that the testing does not result in non-renewal of license but is used as a road user education process.

All road users must carry identification and insurance as currently exists for registered vehicle under the definition by TMR.

Road Infrastructure



Queensland State and Local Government to formally adopt a “Making Roads More Motorcycle Friendly framework similar that that implemented by Victoria and Western Australia.

Ensure that contractors comply with all appropriate standards and protocols for the maintenance of the road network. This compliance needs to cover the road surface and roadside furniture.

For roads with high motorcycle usage, in particular 2-lane winding roads, mandate the use of asphalt rather than spray seal aggregate to provide a more robust, all-weather safer road surface.

Increase the installation of red-light cameras.

Make use of Average Speed cameras rather than Fixed Speed Cameras.

Allow motorcycles to use all special purpose lanes with the exception of bus lane only signed and bicycle lanes.

Enforcement

Increase the level of visible road policing.

Encourage education and warnings before enforcement.

Upgrade police information system to record handing out of warnings to drivers.

Implement an option on infringements to either pay the fine and take the points or attend an approved road safety education program.

Relax the rules around speeding when overtaking. Allow road users to pass a slow vehicle quickly by exceeding the speed limit but then returning to the speed limit or below after passing.

Introduce motorcycle-specific overtaking rules on two lane roads similar to rules for overtaking bicycles.

Ensure that LAMS requirements for car drivers is enforced to the same level as motorcycle riders.